4. As regards allegations contained in the report, most of them are baseless, frivolous and general in nature. It would appear that the organisation has little or scanty knowledge of the Indian Legal System. To counter a few, that India has about 18 million children working on streets, is a highly exaggerated statement. The figures of 18 million quoted in the report acutally correspond to the number of children in the age group of 16-18 years, living below the poverty line. To assume that all of them would fall in the category of street children, would not be justified at all. The observation that street children are detained, beaten and tortured is a very general and sweeping statement. Invariably, whenever such crimes are reported, and *prima facie* charges are established, case is investigated and delinquent officials are prosecuted in accordance with law.

5. A consolidated response to this report was sent to Ministry of External Affairs for briefing Missions abroad in order to neutralise the effects of this report.

Pension for Freedom Fighters

4806. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken to ensure proper utilization of pension for the freedom fighters;

(b) whether the fraudulent cases of claiming pension for freedom fighters have come to the notice of the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to check such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (d) The Central Government sanctions freedom fighters pension in a case on the basis of the information/documents produced by the applicant and the recommendation made by the State Governments. It is made clear in the sanction letter that pension is subject to review and can be cancelled/ modified, without any further notice, if it is established that the same was obtained on mistaken grounds or false information. Complaints received are enquired into through the concerned State Governments and their agencies, as also through the Central investigating agencies, wherever considered necessary. So far pension has been suspended in 2886 cases and cancelled in 1316 cases. A statement indicating the position, State-wise, is enclosed.

Scrutiny of claims for pension has been made more stringent with a view to ensuring that no person, who is not entitled to pension, is sanctioned pension.

Freedom fighters can draw pension only against a sanction order and pension payment order issued by the Central Government. The pension disbursing authorities possess identification documents of pensioners, such as passport size photographs, specimen signatures, finger-prints, etc. for identification so as to ensure that pension is received by genuine pensioners only.

Statement

The cases where freedom fighter pension has been suspended or cancelled.

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Number of cases	
		Suspended	Cancelled
1.	Andhra Pradesh	101	4
2.	Bihar	624	180
3.	Goa	9	9
4.	Haryana	15	22
5.	Himachal Pradesh	0	2
6.	Karnataka	570	261
7.	Kerala	720	61
8.	Madhya Pradesh	55	61
9.	Maharashtra	227	36
10.	Meghalaya	7	13
11.	Orissa	12	85
12.	Punjab	101	26
13.	Tamil Nadu	15	81
14.	Uttar Pradesh	228	222
15.	West Bengal	191	214
16.	Delhi	2	26
17.	Pondicherry	9	13
	Total	2886	1316

[Translation]

Memorial in Memory of Freedom Fighters

4807. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :
SHRI R.L.P. VERMA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to set up a memorial in the historical military camps of the freedom fighters of Azad Hind Fauj in Myanmar (Burma);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) A request was made to the Government of Myanmar through diplomatic channels for the construction of new memorials for freedom fighters in Mandalay prison. The Government of Myanmar has informed that it is not possible to construct these memorials.

[English]

Suicides by Students

4808. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the incidents of suicides by students on the eve of or after examinations and after declaration of the results;

(b) if so, the details about the number of examination related suicide deaths/attempts to suicide by students during the last three years in Delhi and in the country; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken to reform the examination system in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Use of Narcotic Drugs

4809. DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry have formulated any programme to stop the use of narcotic drugs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the date by which this programme is likely to be implemented along with the details of centres established for the purpose State/U.T.-wise; and

(d) the details of the role of the Ministry in this regard and the funds made available for this purpose by them?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) to (c) This presumably refers to the workshop organised is New Delhi on 22-23 April, 1997 by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, in collaboration with International Labour Organisation (ILO) & United Nations International Drugs Control Progamme (UNDCP). It was an orientation programme for a few selected industrial units to develop preventive and deaddiction progammes in their respective units. 10 industrial untis participated in the two days workshop.

(d) The workshop was a part of the Government of India ILO-UNDCP Project on "Developing Community Drug Rehabilitation and Workplace Prevention Programmes in India". This project is partly funded by the Ministry of Welfare.

Wakf Property in Delhi

4810. SHRI E. AHAMED : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government appointed any committee to enquire and recommend the steps to restore Wakf property in Delhi from unlawful possession to the Wakf Board; and

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations of the committee?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) No such Committee has been appointed by Government in the recent past. However, in May, 1974 the Central Government had appointed a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri S.M.H. Burney, the then Chairman, Delhi Wakf Board, with Shri K.K. Ghamkhar, the then Land Development Officer, Shri V. Shankaran, the then Commissioner (Reclamation) and Shri Hassanuddin Ahmed, then Officer on Special Duty (Wakf) as members for examining the claim of Delhi Wakf Board in respect of Wakf properties under the possession of Land and Development Office and Delhi Development Authority and to make recommendations in this regard. This committee is popularly known as "Burney Committee".

(b) The said Committee in its Report submitted to the Government in March, 1976 made the following recommendations :

(i) The wakf properties which are in existence on the site and are in regular use shall be transferred to the Delhi Wakf Board/Mutawallis and the Government will withdraw its claim to its ownership. The Wakf Board/Mutawalli will be empowered to develop these properties in accordance with the Master Plan and Municipal Bye-laws.

(ii) The wakfs which are non-existent on site, and where the Government has constructed buildings, parks, etc. shall be handed over to the Government. The Delhi Wakf Board shall withdraw its claim to these properties.

(iii) The wakfs which are in dilapidated condition but capable of use, shall be handed over to the Delhi Wakf Board. The Government shall withdraw its claim to the ownership of such properties. The Delhi Wakf Board shall also be permitted to develop them in accordance with the Master Plan and Municipal bye-laws. The Delhi Wakf